

Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 23, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

pages 1, 2, and 32 of the specification have been amended to replace docket numbers with application numbers/granted patent numbers accordingly.

page 13, line 8, page 14, line 26, page 17, line 14, page 18, line 3, page 22, line 7, independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the connection ports of the drive electronics printed circuit boards receive, and connect with, corresponding connecting portions of the flexible printed circuit boards of the printhead module, where the printhead module is mounted to the casing so that the connecting portions are directly aligned with the respective connection ports. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 17, lines 34-39 of the present specification;

new dependent claim 6 is added specifying that the support member incorporates lugs which cooperate with recesses of the casing so as to provide the direct alignment. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 17, lines 24-39 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-5 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook (US 6,916,082), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on a fluid channel member 40. The printhead

module(s) is assembled within a casing 20 by slotting the fluid channel member into a channel 21 of the casing so that angular lugs 43a of the fluid channel member cooperate with recesses 24a in the channel. In this way, lower connecting portions 81 of flex PCBs 80 of the printhead integrated circuits directly align with corresponding connectors 98 of PCBs 90 which hold drive electronics 100 for the printhead integrated circuits (see page 6, line 9-page 7, line 38 and page 17, lines 24-39 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 46 has a single printhead chip 186 mounted on a carrier 187 which merely defines an electrical connection zone for the chip. Each carrier is mounted to a channel 62 of the chassis 60 within which is mounted individual ink distribution arrangements 72 for each of the modules, as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 8 of Silverbrook. Flex PCBs 58 of the modules are connected to print engine controllers 48 mounted on PCBs 42 by mounting of the PCBs to the chassis via chassis moldings 64 (see col. 5, lines 7-63 and col. 9, lines 1-12 of Silverbrook).

Silverbrook does not disclose, or suggest, an arrangement in which the modules have more than one printhead chip and the PEC PCBs receive, and connect with, corresponding connecting portions of the flex PCBs of the modules, where the modules are mounted to the chassis so that the connecting portions are directly aligned with the respective connection ports.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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